

Hartert also decline to recognize the genera *Cactornis* and *Camarhynchus* Gould, placing the whole group of thick-billed Finches, to the number of 35 forms, under *Geospiza*, notwithstanding the enormous difference between the two extremes of the series. (The extraordinary intergradation in the size and form of the bill is shown in Pl. vi of the memoir.) In consequence of the much larger amount of material available for examination, a number of Mr Ridgway's forms are synonymized with others, notably in the genus *Pyrocephalus*, where the number of species is reduced from six to two.

There is yet much to learn of the life histories of the birds of the Galapagos Islands, and probably some new forms to be discovered, but, as our authors claim, little new light is to be expected respecting the origin of the avifauna and its relation to that of other countries. That it is American in origin in respect to all its elements there seems no reason to doubt, and that in the evolution of its forms it presents no features not found, in more or less marked degree, in numerous other groups of islands. — J. A. A.

Salvadori and Festa on Birds of Ecuador.¹ The second and third parts of this report have now appeared, completing this valuable contribution to South American ornithology.² The first part included the Passeres oscines, the second part the Passeres clamatores, and the third and concluding part the Trochili and remaining groups. Part I contained 165 species, including 5 new to science and 10 new to Ecuador; Part II included 181 species, with 6 new to science and 7 new to Ecuador, and Part III, 266 species, of which 4 are described as new, and 34 are first recorded from Ecuador. The total number of species enumerated is 611, of which 17 were new to science and 51 new to Ecuador. The report includes much important technical matter, a record of the sex, date and place of capture of the specimens, and references to all the previous Ecuadorian records for each species, giving the localities from which they have been recorded.

Ecuador is considered to be divisible into four physiographical regions, namely, a Western, an Inter-Andean, an Eastern, and the Andean proper, each characterized by differences of altitude, temperature, humidity and vegetation. The birds especially characteristic of these several regions are briefly indicated.

As already noted, this carefully prepared report on Dr. Festa's large collection from Ecuador is not only an important contribution to South American ornithology but an especially valuable addition to our knowledge of the Ecuadorian ornith. — J. A. A.

¹ Viaggio del Dr. Eurico Festa nell' Ecuador. T. Salvadori ed. E. Festa. Ucelli. Part seconda, Passeres clamatores. Boll. Mus. Zool. ed Anat. Comp. d. R. Univ. di Torino, XV, No. 236, pp. 1-34, Nov. 1899. Parte terza, Trochili-Tinami. Ibid., No. 398, pp. 1-54. Feb. 19, 1900.

² For notice of Part I, see Auk, Jan. 1900, pp. 81, 82.